

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
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R 280906Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7925
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 9277

USUN ATTN: WINSTON LEONARD

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, MY
SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON UNCLOS

REF: USUN 03222

1. PRIOR TO HIS AUG 26 DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK TO
ATTEND THE UNCLOS, LAW MINISTER DATUK HAMZAH ABU SAMAH
TOLD REPORTERS THAT MALAYSIA WILL SOON ANNOUNCE ITS
CLAIM OF A 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE. ACCORDING
TO THE GOM NEWS AGENCY BERNAMA, HAMZAH SAID "THERE
IS NOW A CONSENSUS THAT A COASTAL STATE COULD CLAIM
AN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE UP TO A LIMIT OF 200
NAUTICAL MILES." HOWEVER, HAMZAH ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID
THAT QUESTIONS REMAINED TO BE RESOLVED AT UNCLOS ON
THE DELIMITATION OF BOUNDARIES OF THE ZONE BETWEEN
ADJACENT STATES AND ON ACCESS BY A THIRD STATE,
PARTICULARLY A LAND-LOCKED STATE, TO FISH IN THE ZONE.

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2. HAMZAH FURTHER SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF INTER-
NATIONAL NAVIGATION IN STRAITS WAS A MATTER OF
"PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE" TO MALAYSIA. CITING THE
"REMARKABLE PROGRESS" ACHIEVED LAST YEAR WHEN
THE STRAITS OF MALACCA TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME
(TSS) PREPARED BY MALAYSIA, INDONESIA AND SINGAPORE
WAS ACCEPTED BY IMCO, HAMZAH NOTED THAT MALAYSIA'S

EFFORTS DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS AT UNCLOS WERE DIRECTED AT GETTING INTO THE LOS CONVENTION PROVISIONS WHICH WOULD EMPOWER A STATE BORDERING A STRAIT TO ADOPT ENFORCEMENT MEASURES AGAINST SHIPS VIOLATING TSS RULES AND UNDER-KEEL CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS. HAMZAH SAID THAT DURING THE CURRENT SESSION OF UNCLOS MALAYSIA WOULD SEEK THE POWER TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PREVENT PASSAGE OF VESSELS FOR VIOLATING THE UNDER-KEEL CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS TO THE TSS.

3. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, THE GOM-INFLUENCED NEW SUNDAY TIMES (NST) CARRIED AN EDITORIAL AUGUST 27 WHICH NOTED THE USG INTENTION TO JOIN OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN UNILATERAL EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT SEABED RESOURCES UNLESS SOME AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE IS FORTHCOMING AT UNCLOS. THE EDITORIAL URGED A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE AND SAID THAT THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS SHOULD NOT FORCE THIS ISSUE. THE FULL TEXT OF THE EDITORIAL WILL BE SENT SEPTTEL TO USUN BY INA.
MILLER

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